

Title: Mobile Surveys and Inspections

PCoP: DS:4

Date: June 2018

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First Issue Date: August 1999
Re-issue Dates: Dec 2005, Mar 2009, Feb 2015, June 2018
Revision No: 5
Last Reviewed: June 2018
Next Review Due: June 2021
Reviewer: D. Myhill

PLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY MANUAL

1. Scope and Application

This Code of Practice applies to mobile surveys and inspections carried out on the highway network by or on behalf of the Environment & Economy Directorate.

Any deviation from this Code of Practice for survey and inspection works must be agreed with an LCC Health and Safety Advisor and documented in a risk assessment or an alternative Health and Safety Code of Practice.

2. Introduction

As an employer Lincolnshire County Council has certain duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 regarding mobile surveys and inspections.

This Code of Practice is intended to provide a means of meeting those responsibilities.

There are hazards that present dangers in activities undertaken on an operational road and it is a duty under the Health and Safety at Work, Act 1974 for each employer and each individual to take particular care. Some ways of meeting this requirement are:

- Plan to do the inspection in periods of light traffic flow.
- Plan inspections to coincide with closures/controls planned for other operations.
- Ensure that all staff are adequately trained, informed and supervised.
- Plan the inspection before going on the road and try to keep to the plan.
- Do not embark on any activity if visibility is poor or during adverse weather conditions except in an emergency and where it is deemed safe to do so by an experienced officer.
- Whenever visibility is significantly reduced, the inspection should not proceed unless the inspector is competent of carrying out the survey safely.

3. Inspections

Whenever possible inspections of structures or particular features of roads should be conducted well away from the traffic lanes, for example making use of verges or overbridges, or it may be essential for people to be in the traffic lanes. Any such carriageway inspections will require signing in accordance with the Safety at Streetwork and Roadworks Code of Practice and Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

For short duration stops on the highway and guidance on inspections, refer to CPA6

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4. Mobile Surveys

Mobile surveys shall be carried out by trained personnel operating as a two person team from a slow moving vehicle, with one member of the team carrying out the inspection/ survey and the other solely as a driver. Occasionally, where circumstances require, (e.g. in the case of town centres, principal shopping areas, subways and footbridges and at complex road junctions), survey personnel shall proceed on foot either to confirm suspected faults or to complete the survey. It may be appropriate to undertake surveys during periods of low risks e.g. off-peak periods or at night in order to minimise traffic disruption and maximise safety of both the inspectors and the public.

The General requirements for survey vehicles are detailed in the:

Safety at Street Works and Road Works A Code of Practice. The Basic requirements are that

- The Inspection Vehicles which are conspicuously coloured should be used whenever possible
- Private vehicles must have one or more roof mounted Light Bars operating, and the Highway Maintenance Sign clearly visible

Additional static advanced warning signs will be required when ANY of the following conditions apply:

- The works vehicle cannot be seen clearly because of hills, bends in the road, etc.
- Stationary traffic may tail back
- There is not enough space for two-way traffic to pass the works vehicle
- The vehicle is slow moving or is required to make periodic stops

In these cases place 'Road Works Ahead' signs with appropriate supplementary plates for drivers approaching in each direction.

Where appropriate, you must also display 'Road Narrows' signs with 'Single file traffic' plates.

A 'Road Works Ahead' sign should be displayed to drivers approaching on a side road if work is taking place near a junction.

Mobile works should not be carried out more than 1 mile from these signs.

If any of these basic requirements are not met, full standard signing and guarding shall be used.

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Appendix CPC7A

Survey of the highway with no equipment on the carriageway.

- Single Carriageway- Unrestricted - minimum of 400 yards from start of survey.
- Single Carriageway- Restricted- minimum of 100 yards from start of survey.

